

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /089 W
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R 121050Z SEP 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1994
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2855

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR CH IN
SUBJECT: SWAMY'S REMARKS ON SINO-INDIAN BORDER DISPUTE

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH A USLO OFFICER, AND INDIAN EMBOFF
HERE WAS CAUTIOUS IN INTERPRETING REMARKS MADE TO THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 5 BY VISITING MP SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY. SWAMY HAD
STATED THAT CHI PENG-FEI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CHINA'S
NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, HAD TOLD HIM THAT CHINA WAS
READY TO SOLVE THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER PROBLEM THROUGH
NEGOTIATIONS. SWAMY WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE
BORDER COULD BE DRAWN IN SUCH A WAY AS "THERE IS NO PLACE
FOR ANY LOSS FOR EITHER SIDE."

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2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT CHI'S REMARKS REPRESENTED A
SLIGHT SHIFT IN THE CHINESE POSITION. PREVIOUSLY,
PRC LEADERS HAD SAID THAT DURING FOREIGN MINISTER
VAJPAYEZ'S FORTHCOMING VISIT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD
LEAVE THE BORDER PROBLEM TO ONE SIDE AND CONCENTRATE
ON THOSE ISSUES WHICH COULD BE FRUITFULLY DISCUSSED.
NOW CHINA HAS SHOWN ITS READINESS TO DISCUSS THE

BORDER QUESTION AS WELL. THE EMBOFF PROFESSED TO BE UNSURE, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE CHINESE WERE ADVOCATING A DISCUSSION OF THE BORDER OR SIMPLY EXPRESSING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH IT SHOULD VAJPAYEE WISH TO BRING IT UP.

3. SWAMY'S OWN REMARKS ON HOW A BORDER SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, WHILE VAGUE, SEEM TO REPRESENT A SHIFT FROM THE HARD LINE TAKEN BY DESAI EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE EMBOFF WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO INTERPRET THIS, NOTING ONLY THAT WHILE SWAMY DID NOT SPEAK FOR THE GOVERNMENT, HE DID REPRESENT "ONE PART" OF THE RULING COALITION.

4. SWAMY ALSO MADE SOME REMARKS IMPLYING THAT INDIA COULD AGREE TO SOME SORT OF JOWNT DENUNCIATION OF HEGEMONISM. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE WORD IS NEW FOR INDIA, BUT THE CONCEPT IS SOMETHING WE ACCEPT." IF HE SPEAKS FOR HIS GOVERNMENT, THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR NEW DEPARTURE FOR INDIA WHICH WOULD ALMOST SURELY INFURIATE THE SOVIET UNION.

5. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE INDIAN EMBASSY IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER SWAMY WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF OR WAS SENDING UP A TRIAL BALLOON ON BEHALF OF THE JANATA GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY
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NEW DELHI MAY BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO COMMENT ON THIS.
WOODCOCK

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NNN

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